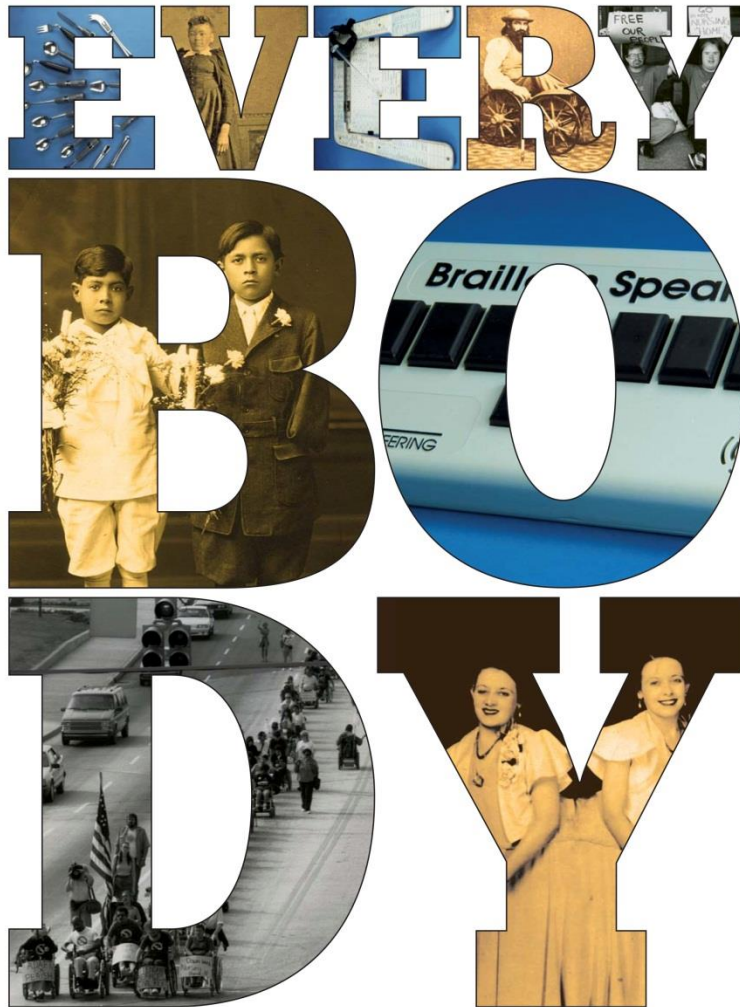


EVERYBODY

A History of Disability in America
Presented by Disability Action Center NW
www.everybody.si.edu



Everybody: An Artifact History of Disability in America

People with disabilities have been present throughout American history. Sometimes difference mattered, at other times it didn't.



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

visit
everybody.si.edu

THE NATHAN
CUMMINGS
FOUNDATION

Smithsonian Institute

People with
disabilities have been
present throughout
American history.
Sometimes difference
mattered, at other
times it didn't.

People with disabilities and ideas related to disability are everywhere in American history.



- What constitutes a disability has depended on who was judging and who was being judged. A lot depends on things such as where you are, what you are doing, and whether you feel safe or excluded.
- For example, a beggar, a war veteran, a baby, and a musician may all have shared the experiences of being blind, but stigma, discrimination, and access to resources would be different for each.

Who is Normal?





Sandy
Koufax,
Left
Handed
pitcher for
the
Dodgers

Vision: An individual's capacity to see and ways to measure, protect, and assist vision vary.



Modern
vision
testing
didn't begin
until the
mid 1800s.



Brandenburg, Mo.
Jan. 11-16
Received of Frank A.
Robinson \$80.00 for
my $\frac{1}{2}$ interest in crop
of tobacco in farm
in farm of R. H. Robinson
Frank ^{his} X Peacock

This hand-written receipt from tobacco farmer Frank Peacock is signed with an "X".

Ray Charles' keyboard and sunglasses, late 20th century





Appearance

Concepts of beauty and comeliness can influence how people are valued and treated.

It's Complicated

People often use more than one framework at a time when thinking about disability but it's more complicated than that.

This tourist, breathing oxygen through a mask and being carried in a basket on the back of a Sherpa guide, is disabled by the mountain altitude.



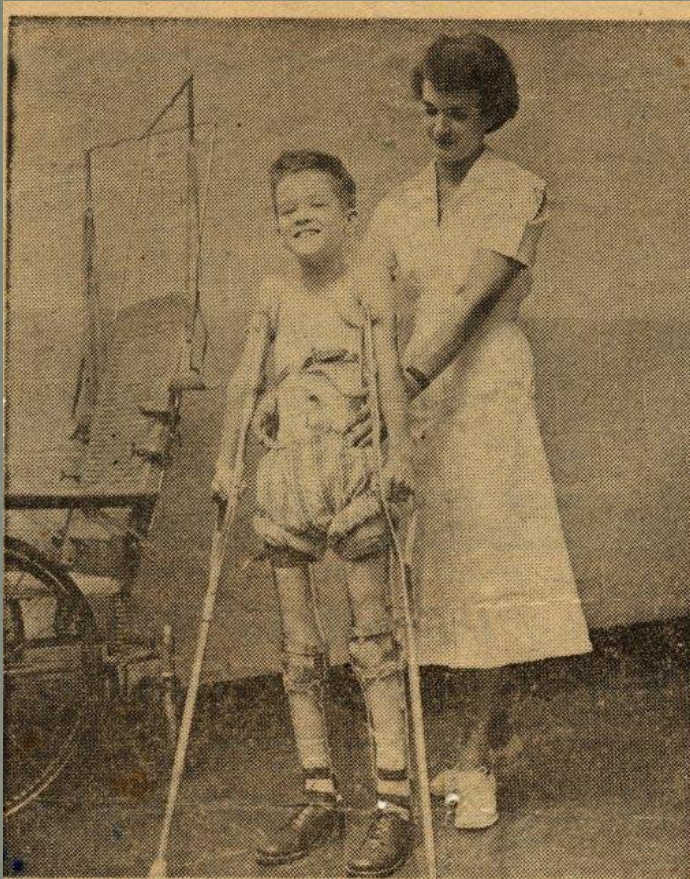


"God is Testing You"

Religious beliefs about disability have varied among the world's traditions.

"Help the Handicapped"

In the charity tradition, people with disabilities were seen as dependent and in need of help or saving.

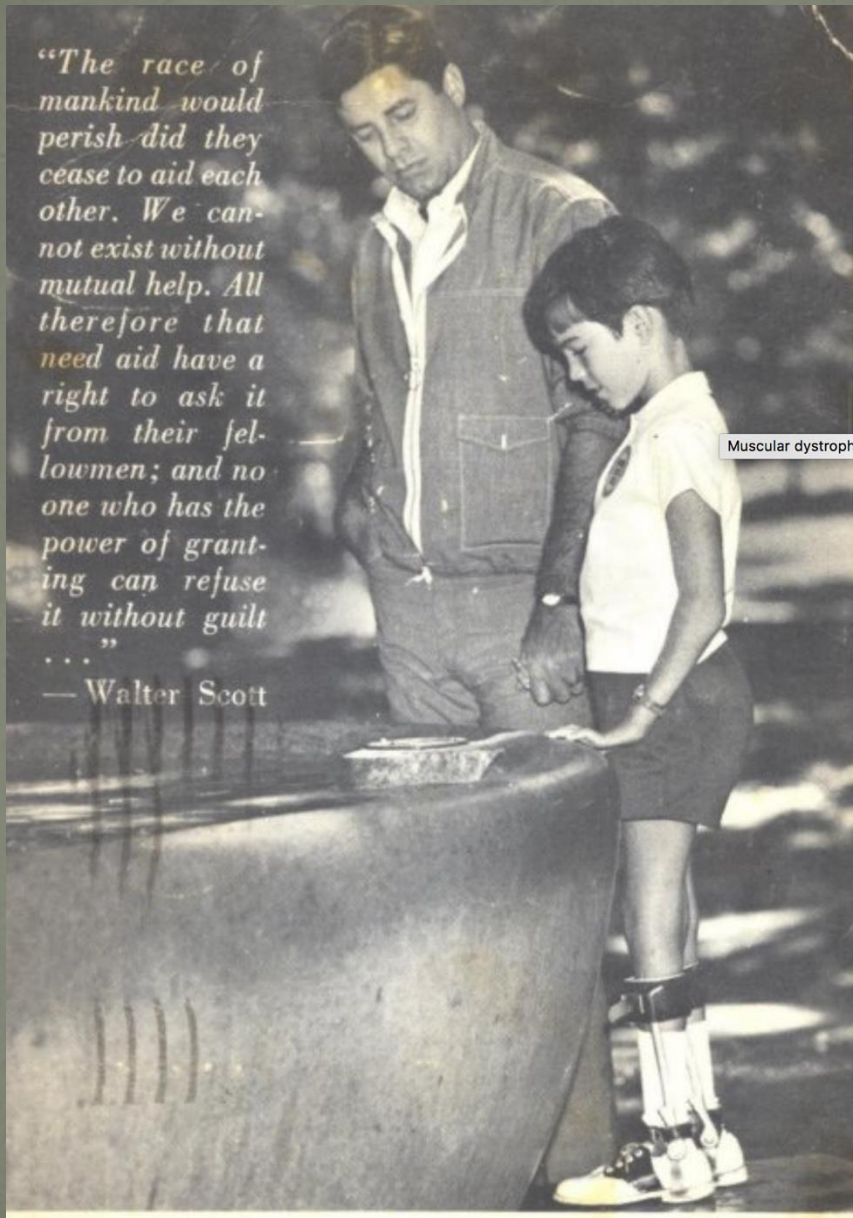


Staff Photo by Frank Jones
HE CAN STAND ALONE—Polio victim Ronald Lawrence Mace, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Mace, Winston-Salem, is learning to walk again at Central Carolina Convalescent Hospital in Greensboro. He is being assisted by Nurse Helen Raynsford. Ronald has been there since Aug. 28, 1950.



"The race of mankind would perish did they cease to aid each other. We cannot exist without mutual help. All therefore that need aid have a right to ask it from their fellowmen; and no one who has the power of granting can refuse it without guilt . . ."

— Walter Scott



Muscular
Dystrophy
Association of
America Inc.
raised millions
using poster
children.



Photo from 1910 – Not all were comfortable with pity

Beggar's card, 1907

COPYRIGHT 1907

PHOTO BY
Grossman
DAYTON, O.



THEIR ONLY SUPPORT

Neck broken October 23, 1906, while decorating new office building, N. C. R., Dayton, Ohio. Was stooped over in the act of removing rubbish, plank fell striking edgewise on back of neck.

 **A. Souslin, 2530 W. Third St., Dayton; Ohio**

2. The patient is seated with the forearm flexed and attempts to extend it. This may also be done with and without resistance.



FIG. 78.—Patient seated with forearm in flexion attempts extension. Resistance offered against wrist by examiner.

GROUP OF MUSCLES WHICH SUPINATE THE FOREARM AND HAND.

MUSCLES.
Supinator radii brevis.
Supinator radii longus.
Biceps.

NERVES.
Posterior interosseous.
Musculospiral.
Musculocutaneous.



FIG. 79.—Forearm on lap with hand palm down. Position in which supination is attempted.

Muscle Action.—Under normal conditions this group of muscles supinate the forearm and hand—that is, turn the palm upward.

"What Is Wrong with You?"

With the incorporation of medicine into more aspects of daily life in the 20th century, health practitioners and scientists closely studied human variations.

The word
“Invalid”
comes from
someone
being viewed
as in-valid.





Baby shoes attached to steel bar, 1950s

This orthopedic device, called a Browne splint, was invented in 1931 and is still occasionally used. Toddlers wore it to prevent “in-toeing” by adjusting hip, foot, and tibia angles.

Lobotomy knives, 1960s

A doctor might remove one of these two pointed steel rods from its black leather case, insert behind a patient's eye and destroy the prefrontal lobe of the brain. Doctors treated unruly or depressed patients by lobotomy from the 1950s to the 1970s.



"Crip Is Hip"

Valuing disability as a part of one's core identity is a principle of social empowerment



Children's shoes from the 1880's and 2002



People

Everyone experiences degrees of independence, dependence, and interdependence

Disability history is a people's history.



1860's

Comfort Bennett was a wealthy farmer and father of twelve children in western New York State.

Personal Responsibility





Tintype from
1880's of a
mother and
her children

Intentional Communities



Disability magazines

Home and Daily Life

Many people with a disability must be pioneers.



HOSPITALS

Accommodates to any position — no other drinking tube has this feature.



SICK ROOMS

Eliminates danger of breakage when used by children, epileptics, etc.

FLEX-STRAW

THE INDIVIDUAL, PERSONALIZED DRINKING TUBE

- Sanitary—Disposable
- Bends to Any Angle
- Eliminates Sterilization and Breakage
- Saves Valuable Time at Current High Labor Costs.
- Lessens Possibility of Spread of Communicable Diseases.
- Treatment in High Temperature—Resistant Micro-Crystalline Wax Prevents Disintegration in Hot Liquids



After many years of intensive research, the FLEX-STRAW is presented for hospital use. It assures maximum comfort and efficiency for hospitalized and invalid patients, providing a personalized, disposable drinking tube for every need.

FLEX-STRAW CORPORATION 4300 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND 3, OHIO, U. S. A.
PLANT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Creative Adaption and Accommodation

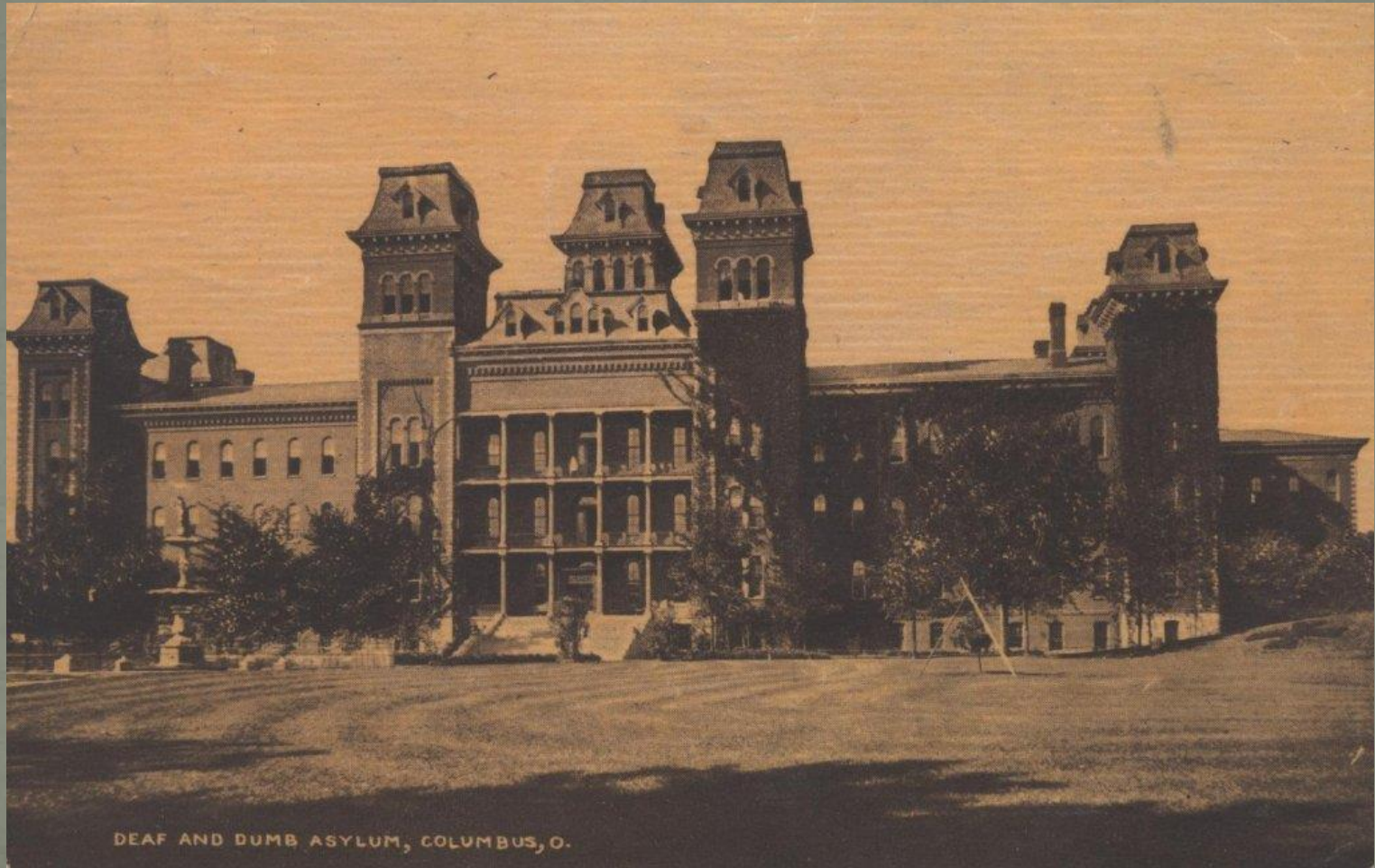
Raincoat, 1990s



Place

Space is a key factor in the history of disability.

OUTSIDE
Everyone is somewhere.



DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM, COLUMBUS, O.



Removal

Questions about where people belong and who decides have created tension throughout American history.

Removal of people with disabilities from their original communities started in the early 1800's.



Department of
Labor brochure
from 1932 laid out
the government's
plan to care for the
disabled.





Institutions were formed for different kinds of disabilities and for different purposes.



THE DOCTOR'S MORNING ROUND.

Blackwell Island Lunatic Asylum, in New York, 1866

Identity



Bertha Flaten (1875-1905)
was institutionalized
because she had seizures.



Grave
Marker #7

Experiences inside institutions varied widely.



Institutions

It took 20 years to start the change to independent living.



Autonomy

Straight jacket, mid-20th century



Electroconvulsive shock device, 1950s





Homemade keys for escape

Technology

Access to resources often comes through technology.

Communication

- Communicating with one another is central to human survival.



TTY and Braille
converter



Television invented
in 1934

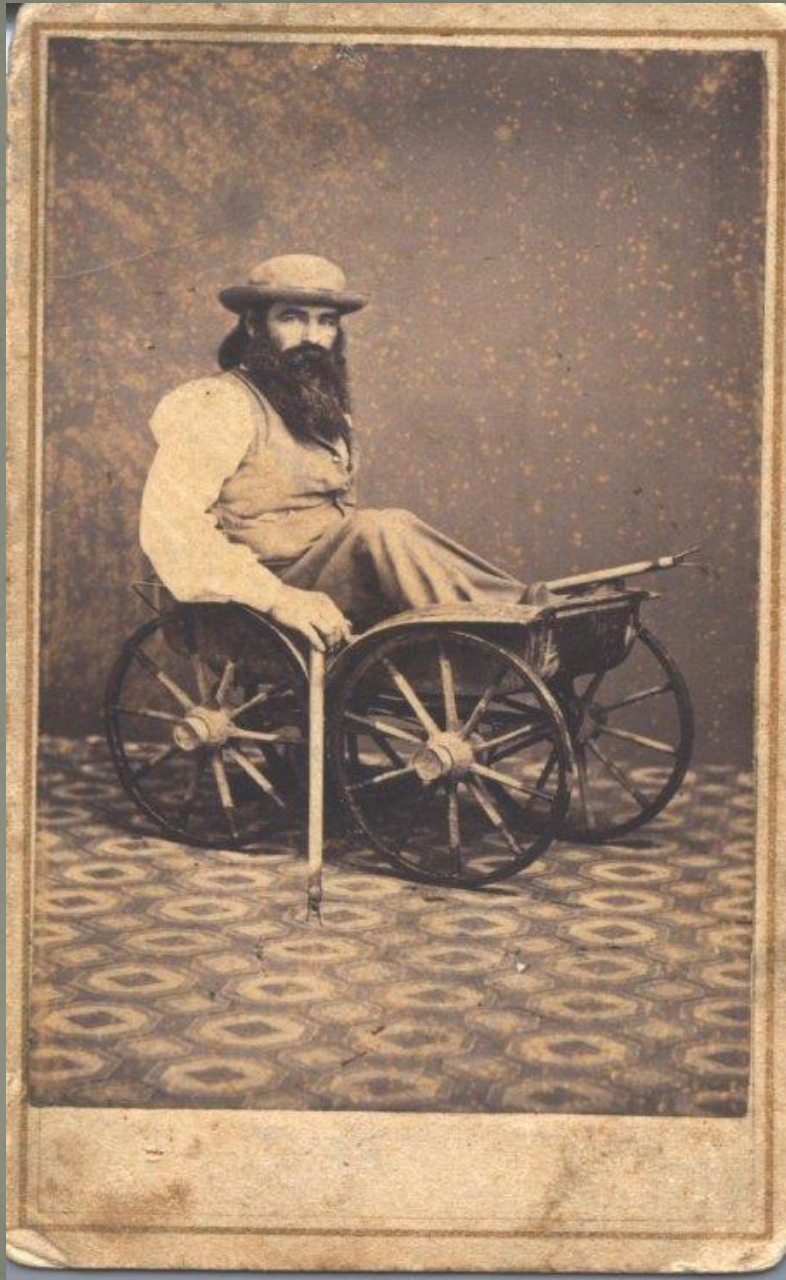


Comparison -

- Hearing aid, 1850s



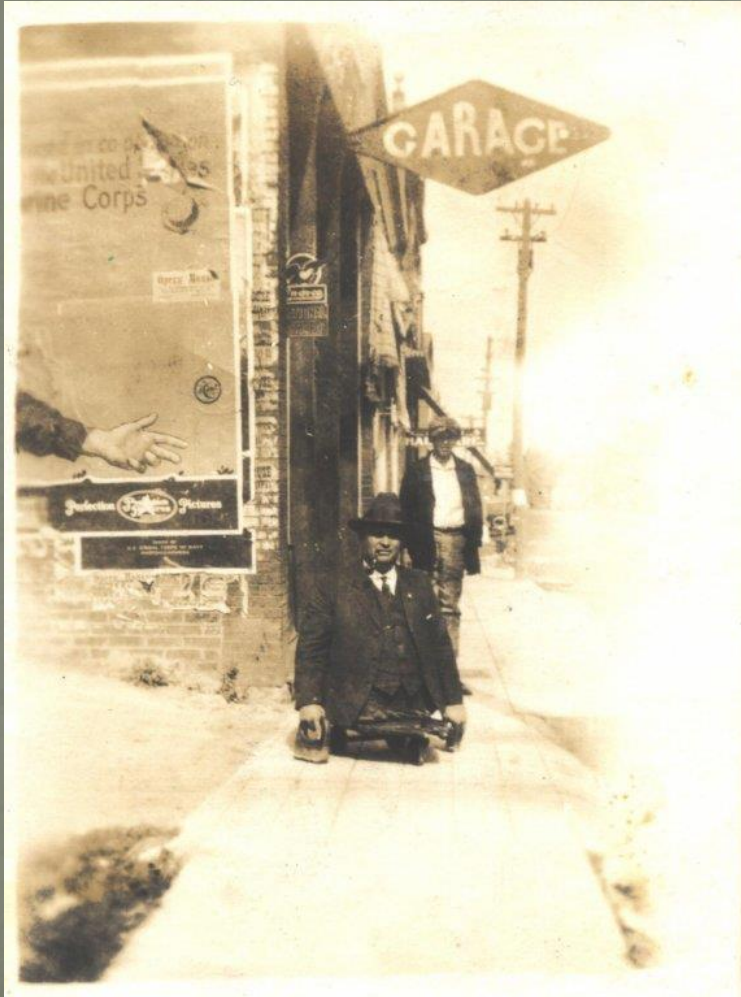
Transistor hearing aid, 1949



Transportation

Each advance
in public
conveyance
has had the
potential for
exclusion.

Inventing Mobility



Wheelchair at impassable curb, 1970s



Architecture

Architectural design has entailed barriers that in turn created disability.



Phone booth, 1979

THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

- 1. EQUITABLE USE**
 The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
 

Powered door with sensors to open for all, regardless of mobility. If funds are full.
- 2. FLEXIBILITY IN USE**
 The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
 

Large grip allows accommodation use with either hand and allows alternation between the two in highly repetitive tasks.
- 3. SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE**
 Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
 

Assembly instructions for improved function illustrate fundamental problems by providing clear illustrations without text.
- 4. PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION**
 The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
 

Mounted visual characterizes important information, including status, location, and enables user input of a high-contrast interface.
- 5. TOLERANCE FOR ERROR**
 The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
 

"Safe" system allows computer user to correct mistakes without penalty.
- 6. LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT**
 The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.
 

Door lever can be operated with closed fist or thumb, unlike most knobs.
- 7. SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH AND USE**
 Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.
 

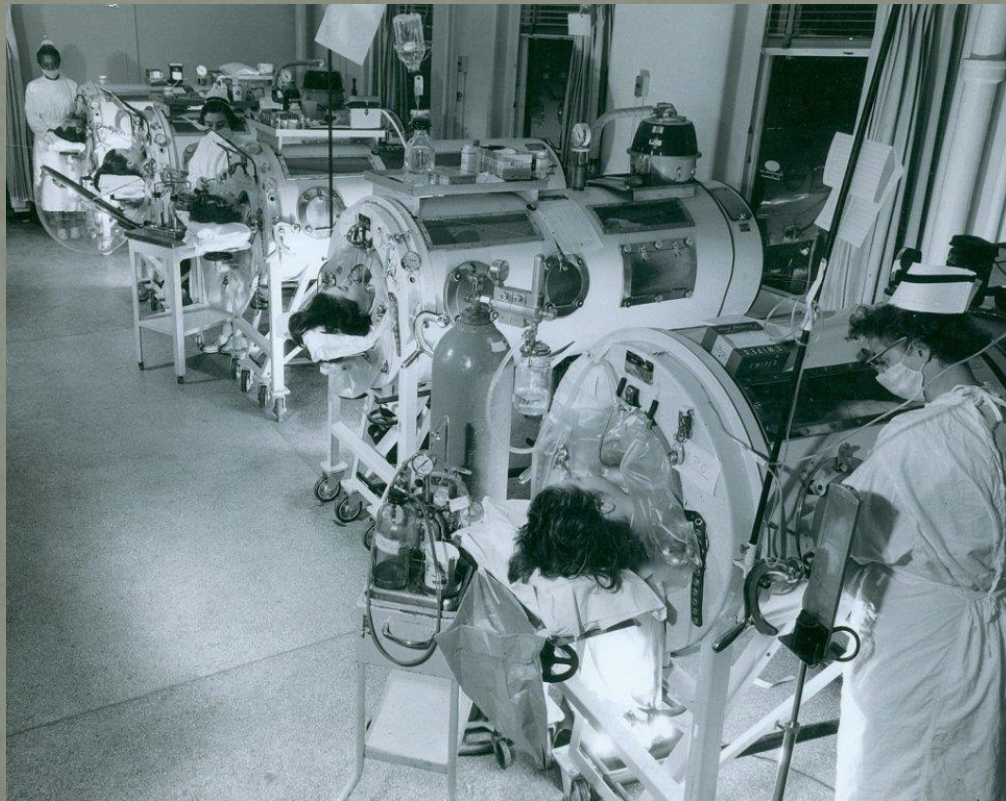
Mobile game of children allows wheelchair users to play and participate with peers for fun.

It should be acknowledged that the principles of universal design do not mean universal solutions for good design; only universally usable design. Context, other factors are important, such as aesthetics, cost, safety, gender and cultural responsiveness, and these aspects should be taken into consideration as well when designing.

THE CENTER FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN
 School of Design - MIT Sloan University - Raleigh, North Carolina
 ©1997 MIT Sloan University
 Major funding provided by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research

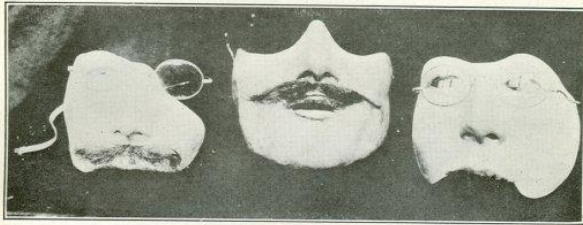
Medicine

- Medical technology has had complicated consequences for people with disabilities.



War

Facial prostheses, 1919



Masks made by Mrs. Ladd, of the American Red Cross, Paris.



88-3

Driver F.

Limb-fitting, World War II

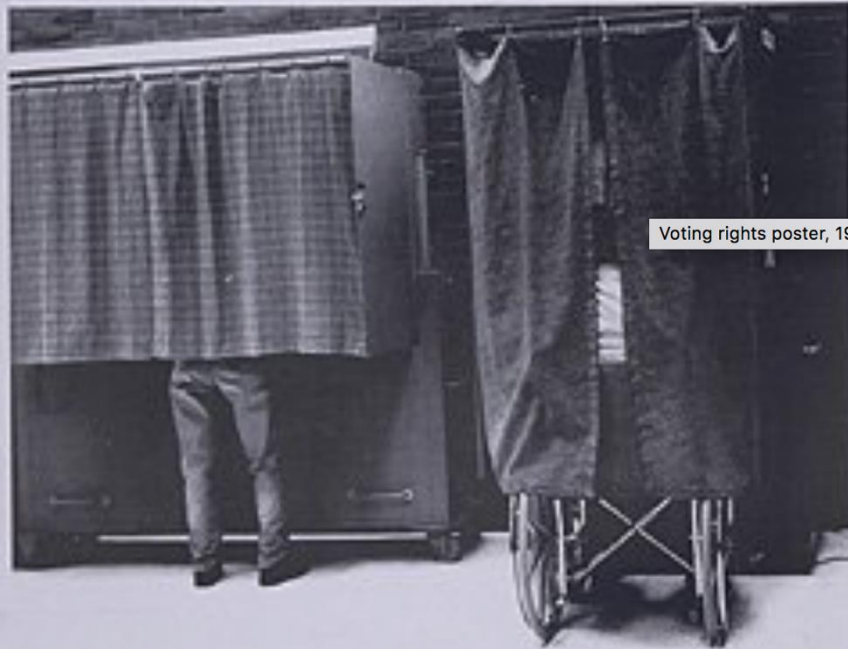


Soldier making limbs, World War II



Citizens

WITH RIGHTS...



Voting rights poster, 1990s

COMES RESPONSIBILITY.



Ellis Island inspection, 1890s

These agents are
inspecting a group
of women for the
contagious eye
disease trachoma.

Work

America Needs ALL of us



HIRE THE HANDICAPPED *through*
State Employment Service Local Offices

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL EMPLOY THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WEEK

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

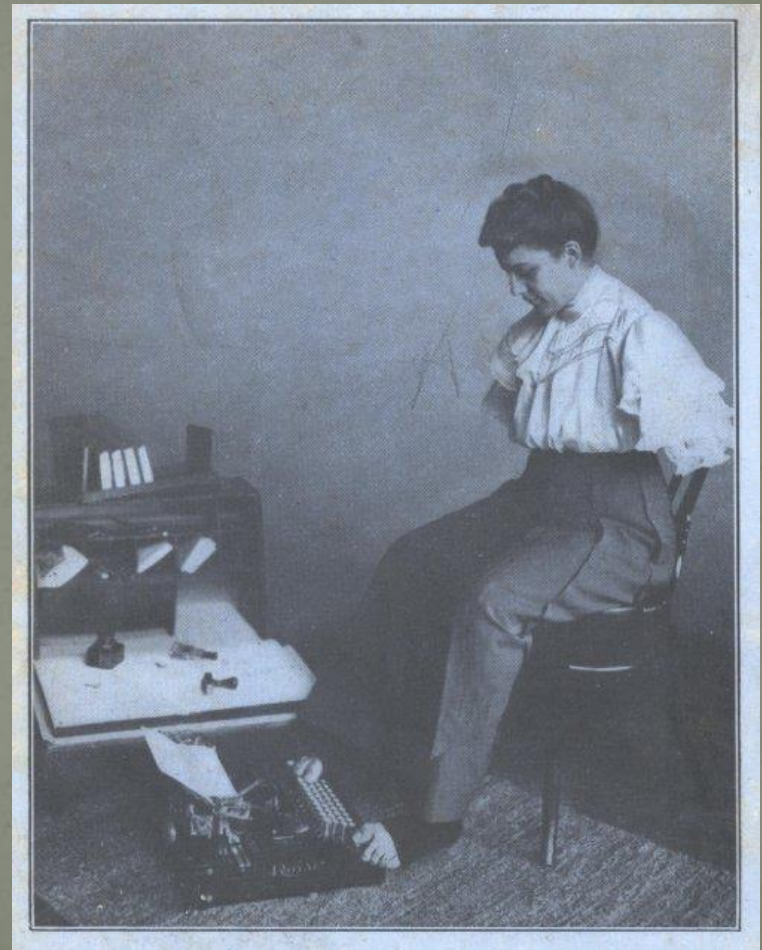
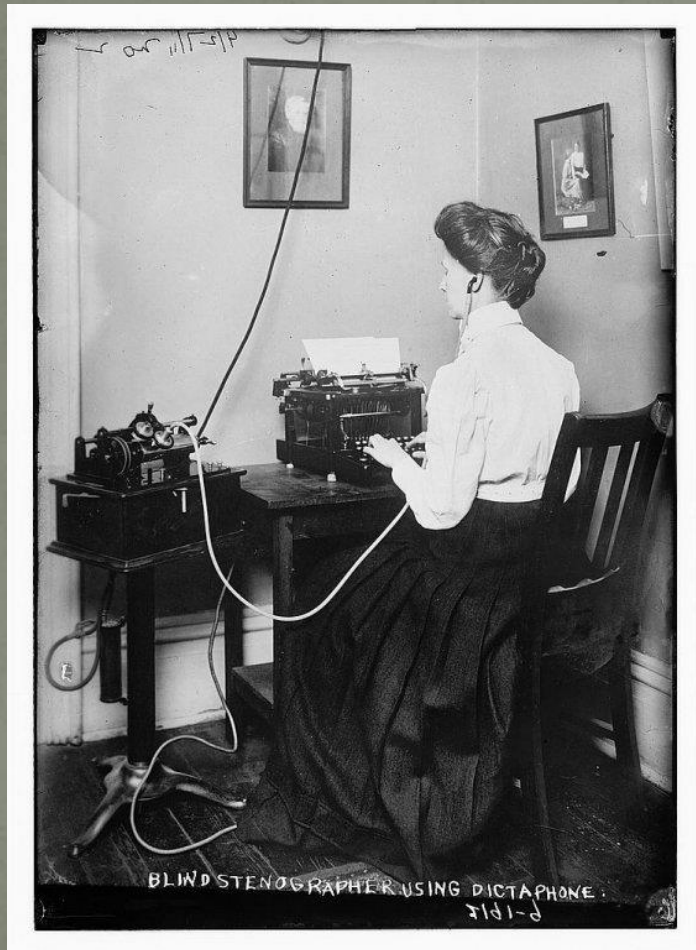
Selling in the streets



Freak Shows



Accommodation



Focus on ability



You don't have to walk to type.

Because being able to walk has
nothing to do with being able to type.
The only thing that matters is how well
you can think and how fast your
hands can move.

Remember, you're hiring her
ability, not her handicap.



PAC

A DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIP FUND INCORPORATED

Eugenics



Although citizenship guarantees certain rights, access to them has been unequal.





“Feebleminded family,” 1946



11-15-00
Junius Wilson

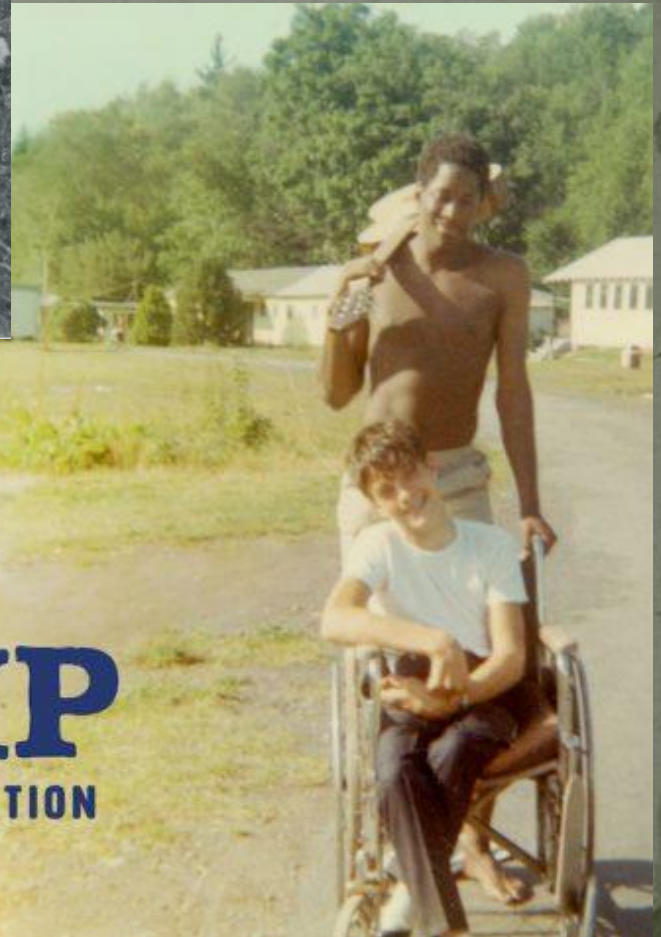
Forced
Sterilization
on people
with
disabilities



Judy Heumann

Activism

Activism takes many forms. It can be as complicated as a class-action lawsuit or as simple as wearing a T-shirt.



By organizing
you are more
likely to get
results.



**YOUR RIGHTS AS
PARENTS OF A
HANDICAPPED
CHILD** published by the
co-ordinating council for handicapped
children — 5512 hyde park blvd.
chicago — phone 684-5983

Price 25¢

ADAPT



Civil Rights, Disability Rights



26 Day Sit In for Section 504



Judy Heumann
again



Demonstrating the need for curb cuts.

Inaccessible Greyhound Bus Lines



Nursing Homes





The United States Capitol Building

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act



To Justin Dart. without your drive, your
'believing' and your leadership this day would not have
been possible. With respect & friendship Ag Bush



Nationwide Disability Caravan

EVERYBODY

Everybody.si.edu

“How you see people with disabilities will determine how you treat them. If you see us as less valuable, if you pity us, if you view us as charity cases who only take from society without contributing, then you will never treat us as you treat yourselves.” ~ Theo Braddy, Executive Director of NCIL